

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 205967  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:DWOOLFLEY:JG :TEXT FROM WHITE HOUSE  
APPROVED BY NEA:NVELIOTES  
NEA/RA:JVMONTVILLE  
EUR/NE:RLFUNSETH  
EUR;RDVINE  
S/S-O:TMARTIN

-----093978 150239Z /61

O 160158Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 205967

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, UK, XF

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER ON CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER  
TO PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN ASAP. THERE WILL BE NO  
RPT NO SIGNED ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW. GUIDANCE AND TALKING  
POINTS TO BE USED, IF NECESSARY, WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTTEL.

BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR JIM:

I WISH TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME THOUGHTS ON THE FORTH-  
COMING MIDDLE EAST MEETING AT CAMP DAVID.

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WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESIDENT  
SADAT HAVE BOTH RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE INVITATION  
TO MEET WITH ME NEXT MONTH IN A MAJOR NEW EFFORT TO  
ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT.  
WE HAVE PURPOSELY NOT SET A FIXED DURATION FOR THE TALKS,  
SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 6, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO

ALLOW AS MUCH TIME AS IS NEEDED FOR OUR EFFORTS TO SUCCEED. THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITHWHICH ALL PARTIES ARE APPROACHING THIS MEETING.

I EXTENDED THIS INVITATION BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE HAVE REACHED A CRUCIAL POINT IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. NINE MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OPENED SIGNIFICANT NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE HISTORIC MEETINGS IN JERUSALEM AND IN ISMAILIA. THE SIDES HAVE MADE PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT DIVIDE THEM AT THIS TIME, BUT RECENTLY, AS YOU ARE AWARE, AN IMPASSE WAS THREATENED. I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD AN IMPASSE, SINCE THE POSITIONS WOULD THEN HARDEN AND THE ATMOSPHERE DETERIORATE TO THE POINT WHERE THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE COULD WELL BECOME ANOTHER OF THE LOST OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE MARKED THE HISTORY OF THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT.

THE OBJECTIVE AT THE CAMP DAVID MEETING WILL REMAIN AS IT HAS BEEN DEFINED BY THE TWO SIDES THEMSELVES IN NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR: TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON A FRAMEWORK, BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, THAT WOULD ALLOW STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD  
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AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE AGREED GOAL OF A STABLE, JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. SUCH AN AGREED FRAMEWORK MIGHT HELP TO BRING OTHER PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT INTO THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

OUR EXPERIENCE IN ATTEMPTING TO FACILITATE AND PROMOTE NEGOTIATIONS THIS PAST YEAR HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND A CERTAIN POINT ON THE CRUCIAL ISSUES UNLESS THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THEMSELVES CAN BE ENGAGED IN A DIRECT EXCHANGE. THIS WAS ONE OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT LED ME TO THE DECISION TO EXTEND INVITATIONS TO THE TWO LEADERS TO MEET WITH ME AT CAMP DAVID. OUR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WHICH CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE NEGOTIATORS ON THE KEY ISSUES. I PLAN TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER TO HELP PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ACHIEVE THE PROGRESS FOR WHICH WE ARE ALL SEARCHING.

AS WE MOVE INTO THIS CRUCIAL NEW PHASE OF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU MY REASONS

FOR TAKING THIS STEP AND THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT WE HOPE  
TO ACCOMPLISH. I KNOW YOU WILL AGREE WITH MY SENSE  
OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE TALKS, WHICH HOLD THE  
PROSPECT OF A MAJOR STEP FORWARD, DESPITE THE REAL  
DIFFICULTIES. I HOPE THAT I CAN COUNT ON YOU FOR  
UNDERSTANDING AND FULL SUPPORT IN THE TASK ON WHICH  
WE ARE EMBARKING.

WITH BEST WISHES,

SINCERELY,

JIMMY CARTER

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END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, TEXTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** PRESIDENTIAL LETTER ON CAMP DAVID SUMMIT PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN ASAP. THERE WILL BE N  
**TAGS:** PPDC, PGOV, PEPR, UK, XF, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (CALLAGHAN, JAMES)  
**To:** LONDON  
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Sheryl P. Walter  
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